

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07  
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /089 W  
-----040503Z 057782 /12

R 031721Z JUN 77  
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
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SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0280

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, NATO  
SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD MAY 30-JUNE5

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AT THE MAY 31 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA  
FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, EASTERN REPS CRITICIZED WESTERN  
RELUCTANCE TO TABLE NATIONAL MANPOWER FIGURES IN ORDER TO  
ESTABLISH THE SOURCES OF THE CURRENT DATA DISAGREEMENT.

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CZECHOSLOVAK REP REPEATED THIS CRITICISM IN A JUNE 2 PLENARY  
STATEMENT AND PRESSED FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE EASTERN INTERIM  
FREEZE PROPOSAL. THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN HIGHLIGHTED BOTH THESE  
THEMES DURING THE WEEKLY POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIFING. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE MAY 31 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, EASTERN  
REPS ATTACKED THE COLLECTIVE NATURE OF MANPOWER CEILINGS

PROPOSED BY THE WEST AND CHARGED THAT THE WESTERN POSITION ON ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS WAS INEQUITABLE IN THAT THE WEST WANTED TO REDUCE AND LIMIT ONLY CERTAIN US NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS IN A FIRST PHASE WHILE EXPECTING THE EAST TO WITHDRAW AN ENTIRE SOVIET TANK ARMY WITH ALL ITS PERSONNEL AND ARMAMENTS AND TO LIMIT THE RESIDUAL LEVELS OF THE LATTER. THEY ALSO CRITICIZED WESTERN RELUCTANCE TO TABLE SEPARATE MILITARY MANPOWER FIGURES FOR THE FORCES IN THE AREA OF EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT SINCE THIS STEP OFFERED THE SIMPLEST AND MOST DIRECT METHOD OF FINDING THE SOURCES OF THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WESTERN AND EASTERN DATA ON WARSAW PACT FORCES. THEY FOUND IT ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THIS RELUCTANCE GIVEN WESTERN ASSERTIONS THAT SUCH NATIONAL DATA ON WESTERN FORCES WERE ALREADY IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. WESTERN REPS REFUTED THE EASTERN CLAIM AT THE MAY 24 INFORMAL SESSION THAT THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH WOULD LEAD TO EASTERN NUMERICAL INFERIORITY IN MILITARY MANPOWER AND AGAIN POINTED TO THE INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN THE CURRENT EASTERN CONTENTION THAT OFFICIAL DATA SHOWED THAT NATO AND WARSAW PACT MANPOWER LEVELS IN CENTRAL EUROPE WERE APPROXIMATELY EQUAL AND POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE EAST PRIOR TO THE TABLING OF EASTERN MANPOWER FIGURES. THE MAY 31 INFORMAL SESSION INCLUDED A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING EASTERN AND WESTERN DATA.

3. CZECHOSLOVAK REP MEISNER MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE JUNE 2 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION REJECTED THE WESTERN CONCEPT OF COLLECTIVE CEILINGS, ARGUED FOR ADOPTION OF THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH AS CONFORMING TO PREVIOUSLY  
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AGREED PRINCIPLES AND ATTACKED RECENT NATO APPEALS FOR AN INCREASED WESTERN MILITARY EFFORT. MEISNER CRITICIZED THE WEST FOR ITS CONTINUED REFUSAL TO ACCEPT EASTERN MANPOWER FIGURES WHILE NEITHER PRESENTING ANY PROOF THAT THOSE FIGURES WERE WRONG NOR AGREEING TO TABLE NATIONAL DATA IN ORDER TO GET AT THE SOURCES OF THE CURRENT DATA DISAGREEMENT. CZECHOSLOVAK REP SAID THAT THE REAL ISSUE WAS NOT EASTERN OPPOSITION TO AN OUTCOME OF MANPOWER PARITY BUT WESTERN ADHERENCE TO ITS INCORRECT ESTIMATE OF WARSAW PACT NUMERICAL STRENGTH. STATING THAT THERE APPEARED LITTLE HOPE THAT THE DATA EXAMINATION WOULD SOON BE FAVORABLY CONCLUDED, MEISNER STRONGLY PRESSED THE MERITS OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT PARTICIPANTS AGREE NOT TO INCREASE THEIR MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA FOR THE DURATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AS A MEANS OF GIVING THE VIENNA TALKS A POSITIVE STIMULUS.

4. IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT AT THE REGULAR POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING, THE EASTERN SPKESMAN ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EAST'S MANPOWER FREEZE PROPOSAL. HE LATER TOOK ADVANTAGE

OF A QUESTION ORIGINALLY ADDRESSED TO HIS WESTERN COUNTERPART TO  
DEVELOP AT LENGTH THE CASE FOR SUCH A FREEZE. IN THE PROCESS,  
HE MADE THE POINTS THAT EASTERN DATA DEMONSTRATING THE  
EXISTENCE OF APPROXIMATE MANPOWER PARITY BETWEEN NATO AND  
WARSAW PACT MANPOWER IN CENTRAL EUROPE UNDERCUT A PRINCIPAL  
WESTERN OBJECTION TO AN IMMEDIATE MANPOWER FREEZE, THAT THE  
WEST HAD GIVEN NO PROOF TO SUPPORT ITS COUNTER-ASSERTIONS OF A  
SIGNIFICANT MANPOWER DISPARITY FAVORING THE EAST AND THAT THE  
WEST WAS YET TO RESPOND TO THE EASTERN SUGGESTION THAT  
PARTICIPANTS PROCEED TO EXAMINE NATIONAL FIGURES IN AN  
EFFORT TO RESOLVE EAST-WEST DIFFERENCES OVER DATA. RESOR

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